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BOARD COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MEETING TAKEN AT
THE LOUISIANA STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM,
8401 UNITED PLAZA BOULEVARD, 4TH FLOOR, BATON
ROUGE, LOUISIANA ON APRIL 23, 2013 COMMENCING AT
1:42 P.M.

REPORTED BY:

RACHEL Y. TORRES, CCR, RPR
CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER

1 APPEARANCES OF BOARD MEMBERS:

2

Commerce & Industry- 4-23-13.txt

3 R.K. MEHROTRA, CHAIRMAN

4 MAYOR RONNIE HARRIS

5 STEVE WINDHAM

6 JERALD JONES

7 LANCE BELCHER

8 GORDON BURGESS

9 KEVIN LANGLEY

10 STEVEN GRISSOM

11 GAYLE POTTS-ROQUE

12 WILDA SMITH

13 CHARLES SOPRANO

14 RICHARD GONSULIN

15 ANDRE FRUGE

16 BRYAN BOSSIER

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1 APPEARANCES OF STAFF MEMBERS:

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3 MELISSA SORRELL

4 FRANK FAVALORO

5 BECKY LAMBERT

6 MARYLYN FRIEDKIN

7 LORI WEBER
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1 MR. MEHROTRA:
2 Roll call, please, Ms.
3 Sorrell.
4 MS. SORRELL:
5 Mat Parker for Governor
6 Jindal. Steve Windham for
7 Lieutenant Governor.
8 MR. WINDHAM:
9 Here.
10 MS. SORRELL:
11 Millie Atkins. Lance Belcher.

Commerce & Industry- 4-23-13.txt

12 MR. BELCHER:
13 Here.
14 MS. SORRELL:
15 Bryan Bossier.
16 MR. BOSSIER:
17 Here.
18 MS. SORRELL:
19 Gordon Burgess. Mark
20 Delesdernier.
21 MR. MEHROTRA:
22 He's here. Gordon Burgess is
23 here.
24 MS. SORRELL:
25 Jeffrey Elmore. Andre Fruge.

1 MR. FRUGE:
2 Here.
3 MS. SORRELL:
4 Richard Gonsulin.
5 MR. GONSULIN:
6 Here.
7 MS. SORRELL:
8 Mayor Ronnie Harris.
9 MAYOR HARRIS:
10 Present.
11 MS. SORRELL:
12 Jerry Jones.
13 MR. JONES:
14 Here.
15 MS. SORRELL:

Commerce & Industry- 4-23-13.txt
William King. Kevin Langley.

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MR. LANGLEY:

18

Here.

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MS. SORRELL:

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R.K. Mehrotra.

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MR. MEHROTRA:

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Here.

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MR. GRISSOM:

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Steven Grissom.

25

MR. GRISSOM:

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Here.

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MS. SORRELL:

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Gayle Potts Roque.

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MS. POTTS-ROQUE:

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Here.

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MS. SORRELL:

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wilda Smith.

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MS. SMITH:

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Here.

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MS. SORRELL:

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Charles Soprano.

12

MR. SOPRANO:

13

Here.

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MS. SORRELL:

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Representative Erich Ponti.

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Senator Danny Martiny.

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Representative Joel Robideaux.

18

Neil Riser. We have a quorum.

19

MR. MEHROTRA:

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Can I get a motion to approve

21 the minutes from our February 26,
22 2013. Mr. Soprano. A second from
23 Mr. Gonsulin. All in favor say
24 aye.

25 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

1 Aye.

2 MR. MEHROTRA:

3 All opposed? Mayor Harris.

4 MAYOR HARRIS:

5 Yes. Mr. Chairman, I would
6 like to have a point of personal
7 privilege. I want to take this
8 opportunity to announce to you
9 and to the entire Board that
10 today will be my last meeting,
11 and, in fact, I have another
12 meeting at 2 o'clock. I will have
13 to leave.

14 I have served as the Mayor of
15 the City of Gretna for the past
16 28 years, and I've served on this
17 Board since 2004 through the
18 Governors of Blanco and Governor
19 Jindal appointed me, and I just
20 wanted to take this opportunity
21 to come and thank you as members
22 of the Board and all of the past
23 Board members for a great
24 learning experience and life

25 Commerce & Industry- 4-23-13.txt
experience on my behalf. I also

1 want to take this opportunity to
2 say thanks to the staff. Y'all do
3 a great job. You really do. We
4 trust you. We depend on you, and
5 when we ask questions, you come
6 up with the answers, and we --
7 and I certainly appreciated that.
8 But, Mr. Chairman, I thought it
9 would remiss for me to submit a
10 letter of resignation without
11 personally delivering it. I want
12 to wish the Board luck. I want to
13 ask -- I want to state to
14 Secretary Moret and Mr. Grissom,
15 it was a pleasure working with
16 you, so I'm looking forward on
17 July 1st to be joining the
18 Louisiana Municipal Association,
19 so I won't be too far away, but
20 thank you very much for this
21 opportunity, and I appreciate
22 working with all of you. Thank
23 you.

24 MR. MEHROTRA:

25 On behalf of the citizens of

1 the State of Louisiana, we want

2 Commerce & Industry- 4-23-13.txt
to thank you for your years of
3 service and it's been a real
4 honor, pleasure to work with you.
5 Thank you, sir.
6 Okay. Quality Jobs, Mr.
7 Favaloro.
8 MR. FAVALORO:
9 Yes. I have four. I have four
10 Quality Jobs applications.
11 20101002, Aqueos Corporation in
12 Lafayette.
13 20110769, Demery Resources
14 Company, LLC in Natchitoches.
15 20120758, Sutherland Global
16 Services, Inc. in Rapides.
17 20110920, Valero Services Inc
18 & Valero Refining-New Orleans,
19 LLC in St. Charles.
20 That concludes the
21 applications.
22 MR. MEHROTRA:
23 Thank you. Can I get a motion
24 to approve. Mr. Jones. Second by
25 Mr. Burgess. Comments or

1 discussion from the floor?
2 Comments or discussion from the
3 Board? All in favor say aye.

4 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

5 Aye.

6 MR. MEHROTRA:

Commerce & Industry- 4-23-13.txt

7 All oppose? There is no
8 opposition.

9 MR. FAVALORO:

10 I have four Quality Jobs
11 Renewal Applications.

12 070810, Accent Marketing
13 Services, LLC in Ouachita.

14 051016, Chevron USA, Inc. in
15 St. Tammany.

16 20071083, H & K Engineering,
17 LLC in East Baton Rouge.

18 And 20071022, Manchac
19 Technologies, LLC in Rapides
20 Parish. That concludes the
21 renewals.

22 MR. MEHROTRA:

23 Thank you. Can I get a motion
24 to approve. Ms. Smith. Second by
25 Ms. Potts-Roque. Comments or

1 discussion from the floor?

2 Comments or discussion from the
3 Board? All in favor say aye.

4 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

5 Aye.

6 MR. MEHROTRA:

7 All opposed? There is no
8 opposition.

9 MR. FAVALORO:

10 I have one Request for

11 Commerce & Industry- 4-23-13.txt
Termination of the following
12 contract(s). Antares Technology
13 Solutions, Inc. 2004-0084. The
14 company has requested
15 cancellation. They have met the
16 minimum requirements of the
17 program. They wish to terminate
18 the contract effective 1/1 of
19 2013. The company sold their
20 assets and are transferring their
21 employees. They are in East Baton
22 Rouge Parish.

23 MR. MEHROTRA:

24 Thank you. Can I get a motion
25 to approve? Mr. Windham. Second

1 by Mr. Jones. Comments or
2 discussion from the floor?
3 Comments or discussion from the
4 Board? All in favor say aye.

5 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

6 Aye.

7 MR. MEHROTRA:

8 All oppose? There is no
9 opposition.

10 MR. FAVALORO:

11 I have one Request for Change
12 in Name Only. 20120020, Great
13 American Steamboat Company to the
14 new name of American Queen
15 Steamboat Operating Company, LLC

20 Commerce & Industry- 4-23-13.txt
Ms. Potts-Roque. Comments or
21 discussion from the floor?
22 Comments or discussion from the
23 Board? All in favor say aye.
24 BOARD MEMBERS:
25 Aye.

1 MR. MEHROTRA:
2 All opposed? There is no
3 opposition. Thank you, Mr.
4 Favaloro. Ms. Lambert.
5 MS. LAMBERT:
6 Thank you. We have a total of
7 14 New Restoration Tax Abatement
8 Applications. A search of prior
9 Board agendas from many years
10 past indicates to me that this is
11 the largest number of new
12 applications for restoration tax
13 abatement, and you will note that
14 although one is in St. Tammany,
15 so the City Council had a lot to
16 review at that time. Now, it's
17 not that they all go in at the
18 same time and get approved at a
19 certain point. It depends on when
20 the applicant provides all of the
21 required information, so perhaps,
22 you know, they were able to
23 gather up enough information and
24 bring them all to the Board at

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that time. So I'm pleased to

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present them.

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The first one is 20120822,

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1029 OC Haley, LLC.

4

20110896, 809-811 Royal

5

Street, LLC.

6

20110904, 919 Esplanade LLC.

7

20121112, Bradley J. Bingert

8

and Alona E. Binger.

9

20100668, Burgundy

10

Development, LLC.

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20121116, Butterbean

12

Development Group, LLC.

13

20121032, Christian J. Rhodes

14

and Robin G. Rhodes.

15

20120069, Community Feed

16

Store, LLC.

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20080726, Duplain W. Rhodes

18

Funeral Home, Inc.

19

20110665, Gibbs 900 Poydras

20

LLC.

21

20120564, Lucas Lilly.

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20120811, PFD Group, LLC.

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20120169, PFD Group, LLC.

24

And, finally, 20110688,

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Southern Electronics Supply, Inc.

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This concludes the new

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applications list.
MR. MEHROTRA:
Thank you, Ms. Lambert. Can I
get a motion to approve. Mr.
Soprano. A second? Ms.
Potts-Roque. Ms. Smith. All --
comments or discussion from the
floor? Comments or discussion
from the Board? Ms. Potts-Roque.
MS. POTTS-ROQUE:
I would like to have Contract
No. 20121032 re-read into the
record, please. It's midway.
20121032.
MS. LAMBERT:
20121032, and you have --
MS. POTTS-ROQUE:
No. would you re-read it into
the record.
MS. LAMBERT:
Christian J. Rhodes and Robin
G. Rhodes.
MS. POTTS-ROQUE:
Thank you. Previously you

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read it as Christina.
MS. LAMBERT:
Thank you. All in favor say
aye.
ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

Commerce & Industry- 4-23-13.txt
Aye.

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MR. MEHROTRA:

All opposed? There is no
opposition.

MS. LAMBERT:

I have one renewal
application for 051200, Trinity
Family Enterprises, LLC in
Calcasieu.

MR. MEHROTRA:

Thank you, Ms. Lambert. Can I
get a motion to approve. Ms.
Potts-Roque. Ms. Smith. Comments
or discussion from the floor?
Comments or discussion from the
Board? All in favor say aye.

ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

Aye.

MR. MEHROTRA:

All oppose? There is no

opposition.

MS. LAMBERT:

I have two special requests,
both are the same requests to
change the construction dates
that have already been approved
on the contracts to move. RTA
20121114 and 20121113 for the
company 139 Huey P. Long Avenue,
LLC. One address is for the lower

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11 portion at a pizza place and it's
12 135 Huey P. Long Avenue in
13 Gretna. The other is an upstairs
14 lot for a business. It's 139-B
15 Huey P. Long Avenue, Gretna. The
16 company provided me with a change
17 in the construction dates as
18 shown here underlined, which was
19 originally August 1, 2009 to
20 August 1, 2011, and they asked to
21 change it from that to 12-1-2010
22 to 12-1-2012. They realized they
23 actually lost a small portion of
24 their abatement but they had to
25 take the -- they had to make a

1 decision about the greatest
2 investment amount within the 24
3 month period, and so there is no
4 error on their part to do this,
5 it just has to come before the
6 Board as required by the rules of
7 the program.

8 MR. MEHROTRA:

9 Thank you, Ms. Lambert. Can I
10 get a motion to approve? Mr.
11 Jones. A second by Ms.
12 Potts-Roque. Comments or
13 discussion from the floor?
14 Comments or discussion from the

15 Commerce & Industry- 4-23-13.txt
Board? All in favor say aye.

16 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

17 Aye.

18 MR. MEHROTRA:

19 All opposed? There is no
20 opposition. Thank you, Ms.

21 Lambert. Ms. Friedkin, Enterprise
22 Zone Program, please.

23 MS. FRIEDKIN:

24 There are 16 applications.

25 Barkers Cardiovascular Center,

1 LLC. That is application No.

2 20110134.

3 20111146, Dolphin Services,
4 LLC in Terrebonne.

5 20100876, Geaux Tiger Mart in
6 East Baton Rouge Parish.

7 20111179, GMRI Incorporated
8 doing business as Olive Garden
9 Italian Restaurant in Tangipahoa.

10 2011113 -- I'm other.

11 20111134, Gulf Island Marine
12 Fabricators, LLC in Terrebonne.

13 20111147, Gulf Island, LLC in
14 Terrebonne.

15 20111012, Knight Oil Tools
16 Incorporated in Lafayette.

17 20111065, Master Lube Express
18 Incorporated in Ouachita.

19 20110937, NTP Properties, LLC

Commerce & Industry- 4-23-13.txt

20 doing business as Comfort Suites
21 in Bossier.

22 20120833, Petit Bourgeoisie,
23 LLC doing business as Satsuma in
24 Orleans.

25 20120280, Premier Machine

1 Works, LLC in Terrebonne.

2 20110967, Ram Vishnu, LLC
3 doing business as La Quinta Inn &
4 Suites, No. 6505 in Vernon.

5 20111125, RLJ-St. Charles
6 Avenue Hotel Lessee, LLC in
7 Orleans.

8 20120958, TCI Packaging, LLC
9 in Orleans.

10 20080812, woman's Hospital
11 Foundation in East Baton Rouge.

12 And 20110770, Aesthetic
13 Dermatology, LLC in East Baton
14 Rouge.

15 MR. MEHROTRA:

16 Thank you. Can I get a motion
17 to approve? Mr. Windham. Second?
18 Mr. Gonsulin. Any comments or
19 discussion from the floor?
20 Comments or discussion from the
21 Board?

22 MS. POTTS-ROQUE:

23 I would like to recuse myself

24 Commerce & Industry- 4-23-13.txt
from the vote.

25 MR. MEHROTRA:

1 Ms. Potts-Roque recusing from
2 the vote. All in favor say aye.

3 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

4 Aye.

5 MR. MEHROTRA:

6 All opposed? There is no
7 opposition.

8 MS. FRIEDKIN:

9 There is one contract
10 cancellation. Contract No.
11 20080189, Baton Rouge General
12 Medical Center Mid City in East
13 Baton Rouge. The company is
14 requesting cancellation of
15 contract because they did not
16 have any growth during the
17 project period.

18 MR. MEHROTRA:

19 Thank you. Motion to approve?
20 Mr. Jones. A second by Mr.
21 Soprano. Comments or discussion
22 from the floor? Comments or
23 discussion from the Board? All in
24 favor say aye.

25 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

Commerce & Industry- 4-23-13.txt
Aye.

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MR. MEHROTRA:

All opposed? There is no
opposition.

MS. FRIEDKIN:

Thank you.

MR. MEHROTRA:

Thank you. Ms. Weber. Before
you get started, Ms. Weber, I
would like to just note under the
Industrial Tax Exemption Program.
Over the last few meetings we
have had about 500 million in new
investments. This time we have
nine billion with a "B". Just
incredible, so we -- it was over
9,400,000, and I would like to
recognize Sempra Cameron L&G for
investing \$9 billion in the state
of Louisiana and their people.
Would you like to address the
Board?

MR. NELSON:

Thank you. My name is mark
Nelson, Regional Vice-President.

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It has been a pleasure to be in
Baton Rouge. As you can imagine,
we already have over a billion
dollars invested in this fine
state, and the proposal before

6 you reflects our desire to
7 continue investing in this great
8 State, and the action as before
9 you today is an important step in
10 the right direction to keep this
11 project moving forward, so thank
12 you for your time and attention.
13 I won't spend anymore of your
14 time unless you have any
15 questions.

16 MR. MEHROTRA:

17 Thank you. Thank you for your
18 time. Any questions from the
19 Board? We appreciate you
20 attending. Okay. Ms. Weber.

21 MS. WEBER:

22 All right. Do you want to
23 take them in-globo or do you want
24 to -- refer to that one issue
25 before we do anything on this?

1 MR. MEHROTRA:

2 We have a motion from Mr.
3 Fruge in-globo. Second by Mr.
4 Burgess. All in favor?

5 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

6 Aye.

7 MR. MEHROTRA:

8 Anyone oppose? No opposition.

9 MS. WEBER:

Commerce & Industry- 4-23-13.txt
All right. Next is the

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renewals.

MR. JONES:

I think the motion is just to take it in-globo. We still need a motion approving all of them.

MR. MEHROTRA:

We need a motion to approve the 164 new applications. Ms. Potts-Roque. Second by Mr. Fruge. Any comments or discussion from the floor? Any comments or discussion from the Board? All in favor say aye.

ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

Aye.

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MR. MEHROTRA:

All oppose? There isn't opposition.

MS. WEBER:

All right. The next issue is the renewals. I have one renewal. DEXCO Polymers, Iberville.

MR. MEHROTRA:

Thank you, Ms. Weber. Motion to approve by Mr. Fruge. Second by Ms. Potts-Roque. Comments or discussion from the floor? Comments or discussion from the Board? All in favor say aye.

Commerce & Industry- 4-23-13.txt

15 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

16 Aye.

17 MR. MEHROTRA:

18 All opposed? There is no

19 opposition.

20 MS. WEBER:

21 All right. The next item is a

22 change in the location for two

23 companies, Superior Scrap Metal &

24 Recycling of Baton Rouge.

25 Contract No. 20110977 and

1 20120660. Their new address is
2 moving from 991 U.S. Highway 190
3 West Port Allen to 2527 South
4 Westport Drive in Port Allen.
5 That is in West Baton Rouge
6 Parish.

7 Performance Plastics
8 Incorporated. Contract No.
9 20110817, they are moving from
10 2940 South Ruby Street in
11 Gonzales in Ascension Parish to
12 702 East Airline Highway,
13 Gramercy in St. James.

14 MR. MEHROTRA:

15 Thank you. Motion to approve.

16 Ms. Potts-Roque. Second? Mr.

17 Fruge. Comments or discussion

18 from the floor? Comments or

19 Commerce & Industry- 4-23-13.txt
discussion from the Board? All in
20 favor say aye.
21 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:
22 Aye.
23 MR. MEHROTRA:
24 All opposed? There is no
25 opposition.

1 MS. WEBER:
2 All right. I have five
3 cancellations.
4 Interstate Brands
5 Corporation, Contract 040089.
6 They stopped production in
7 November 2012 and are in the
8 process of going through their
9 bankruptcy in disposing of
10 assets. These are the producers
11 under the Hostess Brands name.
12 That is in Rapides.
13 Bottling Group, LLC. All
14 active contracts. The company
15 stopped production in December
16 2012. They auctioned the majority
17 of their personal property in
18 February 2013. Since they are no
19 longer manufacturing, we request
20 cancellation of the remaining
21 contracts. The company was
22 notified in March that this
23 action would be taken. That's in

24

St. John The Baptist.

25

Hogan Hardwoods & Moulding,

1

Inc., 20030539. We were notified

2

by the Assessor's office that the

3

company was no longer

4

manufacturing. All of the

5

equipment was auctioned off and

6

we request cancellation of this

7

contract. Lincoln Parish.

8

Impact Windows, LLC.

9

20120655. The company has paid

10

taxes on the assets that were

11

under this exemption and we

12

request cancellation since they

13

are no longer eligible. This is

14

in Bossier.

15

Southern Recycling, LLC,

16

20100451. The company requests

17

cancellation of this contract.

18

The assets were incorrectly

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listed and they have decided to

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cancel. That's in Orleans.

21

MR. MEHROTRA:

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Thank you, Ms. Weber. Motion

23

to approve? Mr. Smith. Second?

24

Mr. Belcher. Comments or

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discussion from the floor?

1 Comments or discussion from the
2 Board?

3 MR. JONES:

4 Mr. Chairman.

5 MR. MEHROTRA:

6 Mr. Jones.

7 MR. JONES:

8 Ms. Weber, I want to be sure
9 I'm clear on this. I see under
10 Bottling Group, LLC you have the
11 -- confirmed the statement the
12 company was notified in March
13 that this action would be taken.
14 I don't see that notification or
15 that notation on our agenda for
16 the other four.

17 MS. WEBER:

18 Oh, because the companies
19 usually request them.

20 MR. JONES:

21 Okay. That's what I wanted to
22 be sure that the companies are in
23 fact aware that this action is
24 being taken.

25 MS. WEBER:

1 Oh, definitely. In fact, we
2 could have taken them to the
3 Board in February, but they
4 wanted to double check their

5 Commerce & Industry- 4-23-13.txt
6 numbers, and so I told them in
7 March that we would bring it up
8 today.

9 MR. JONES:

10 So for all five they have
11 been notified?

12 MS. WEBER:

13 Yes, sir. Unless I state
14 otherwise that I could not reach
15 them or something like that,
16 then, yes, they have been
17 notified.

18 MR. JONES:

19 That's all I need to know.
20 Thank you, ma'am.

21 MR. MEHROTRA:

22 Any other discussion from the
23 Board? All in favor say aye.

24 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

25 Aye.

MR. MEHROTRA:

1 All opposed? There is no
2 opposition.

3 Ms. Weber, will you please
4 get everyone -- give us a
5 background on the special
6 circumstances involving
7 Imperial-Savannah from our last
8 meeting.

9 MS. WEBER:

10 Yes, sir. Basically, as I
11 appreciate it at the last
12 meeting, the company, through
13 their contact or their consultant
14 requested the late filing be
15 eligible for the ten-year period
16 as opposed to the five year
17 period that I put on the agenda,
18 and basically what the rule
19 states if an application is
20 received after the filing date,
21 which in this case was March
22 31st, they are subject to a
23 reduction in term for every month
24 that they file late, so basically
25 for each month or portion of a

1 month they lose a year of
2 exemption, which we have capped
3 at five years under the rules.
4 This is under Section 505,
5 miscellaneous capital additions,
6 Item B, Section E or maybe that's
7 just Section E. Yeah. Section E.
8 It says, if the application is
9 submitted after the filing
10 deadline, the ten-year term of
11 the exemption available under an
12 initial contract and renewal
13 thereof shall be reduced by one

14 Commerce & Industry- 4-23-13.txt
year for each month or portion
15 thereof that the application is
16 late up to a maximum reduction of
17 five years. The Board may impose
18 any other penalty for late filing
19 that it deems appropriate.
20 MR. MEHROTRA:
21 Okay. Thank you, Ms. Weber.
22 MS. WEBER:
23 Okay.
24 MR. MEHROTRA:
25 I would like to open

1 discussion to the Board.
2 MR. JONES:
3 We probably need a motion to
4 at least put it on the floor, a
5 motion to consider it so that we
6 can have some discussion.
7 MR. MEHROTRA:
8 Motion to consider.
9 MR. JONES:
10 I will move for discussion
11 purposes.
12 MR. MEHROTRA:
13 Mr. Jones. Second by Mr.
14 Fruge for discussion purposes.
15 MR. JONES:
16 Mr. Chairman, may I.
17 MR. MEHROTRA:
18 Yes. Please.

19

MS. WEBER:

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Do you want the full

21

circumstances?

22

MR. JONES:

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Please. I was not here at the

24

last meeting, so bring me up.

25

MS. WEBER:

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Basically what happened was

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in March of 2012 I received an

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application from

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Imperial-Savannah in the amount

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of about seven and a half, \$7.6

6

million for miscellaneous capital

7

addition. I immediately sent an

8

e-mail the following day to Linh

9

Lam, who is my point of contact

10

at Imperial-Savannah, reminding

11

her that she did this the

12

previous year and that she had to

13

file an additional application

14

because she had filed erroneously

15

over the \$5 million mark. I

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didn't hear anything from them

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and basically with my March 31st

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deadline, it slipped my mind. I

19

get a call in August from a

20

gentleman by the name of Jim

21

Stockbridge, and he wanted to let

22

me know that he was now the point

23 Commerce & Industry- 4-23-13.txt
of contact for Imperial-Savannah.
24 He sent me his contact
25 information. I sent him an e-mail

1 later in October or -- yeah, in
2 October reminding him of that and
3 he indicated that he had found
4 the file and he was aware of the
5 situation and that it would be
6 addressed. Then a Ms. Marta
7 DeBlock from Louis Dreyfus
8 contacted me and informed me that
9 Louis Dreyfus had purchased
10 Imperial-Savannah back in June of
11 2012. They were now going to be
12 handling all of the industrial
13 tax exemption, so I sent her the
14 same information that I sent Mr.
15 Stockbridge. I believe in
16 November -- let me double check.
17 November 9 is when we received
18 the actual application of 2012,
19 and so I put it on the agenda as
20 late.

21 Now, the original application
22 was for \$7.6 million. Of that,
23 4.8 was for equipment and 2.6
24 plus was for the building. The
25 original application in the

1 amount of 4.8 was approved by the
2 Board for ten years, but the
3 second application, since we
4 didn't receive it before the
5 deadline, was the one that was
6 reduced to the five years.

7 MR. JONES:
8 The second application for
9 how much?

10 MS. WEBER:
11 It's 2.6.

12 MR. JONES:
13 2.6.

14 MS. WEBER:
15 No. Actually, 2.768824.

16 MR. JONES:
17 So make sure that I'm clear,
18 so what's before the Board today,
19 the 4.8 that we already acted on
20 that and they were able to get
21 the ten year extension on that;
22 is that correct?

23 MS. WEBER:
24 Yes, sir. You approved the
25 4.8 on December 11, 2012.

1 MR. JONES:
2 So the only issue before us
3 today is the \$2.7 million some
4 odd.

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MS. WEBER:

Yes.

MR. JONES:

And the specific issue is --

MS. WEBER:

The date it was received.

MR. JONES:

The date it was received. You are contending that because it was late it's only entitled to a maximum of five years of exemption but they are wanting the ten year, does that summarize the issue?

MS. WEBER:

Yes.

MR. MEHROTRA:

Ms. Simms, would you like to address the Board?

MS. SIMMS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and

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the Board. Yes, we do have some discussion about the last Board meeting about this and I can give you some more details but I'm reluctant to carry this and even really forward anymore. We understand that the executive counsel has advised the Board

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that they don't have the

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authority to grant the request,
so I'm reluctant to continue if
the Board believes it does not
have the authority to grant the
request.

MR. JONES:

well, that's the last
question that I am going to ask.
I haven't asked that question but
now that you've raised it, I will
ask it. Ms. Greco, is that --

MS. GRECO:

Yes. In this section of the
rule --

MR. JONES:

Can you turn your mic on.

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MS. GRECO:

In this section of the rule
there no provision for Board
discussion. If you are wearing
some pro-rule in certain places
it will say for good cause the
Board may extend the deadline or
waive that application of a rule.
This is not such a rule. It says
if it's late it shall be reduced
in time, so it does not leave any
discretion open to the Board.

MR. JONES:

14 Ms. Simms, are you aware of
15 any rules that would otherwise
16 grant us this discretion.

17 MS. SIMMS:

18 I believe that is in
19 paragraph E, if you like at
20 subparagraph F, there is a little
21 bit of discretion for the Board
22 as far as increase or decrease in
23 the property. Unfortunately, I do
24 not have the statutory provisions
25 with me with the granting of the

1 Board authority as a whole, so I
2 unfortunately do not know what
3 that authority is.

4 MR. JONES:

5 Ms. Weber, do you have the
6 rules she is referring to?

7 MS. WEBER:

8 I have the rule in front of
9 me.

10 MR. JONES:

11 Okay. what -- you have the
12 provision that --

13 MS. WEBER:

14 It just says eligibility of
15 the applicant and the property
16 for the exemption will be
17 reviewed by the Board based upon

18 Commerce & Industry- 4-23-13.txt
the facts and circumstances
19 existing at the time the
20 application is considered. We
21 generally use that in terms of
22 renewals or, you know, like if a
23 company has been manufacturing
24 and then is no longer
25 manufacturing and they have

1 submitted an application. At the
2 time it comes to -- it could come
3 to the Board, I like to be aware
4 of the fact they are no longer
5 manufacturing. In most cases, I
6 tell the company I'm not going to
7 bring it to the Board because you
8 are not manufacturing and we have
9 to consider it under those
10 circumstances.

11 MR. JONES:

12 Could you read that into the
13 record just a little more slowly
14 this time.

15 MS. WEBER:

16 Sure. Eligibility of the
17 applicant and the property for
18 the exemption will be reviewed by
19 the Board based upon the facts
20 and circumstances existing at the
21 time the application is
22 considered. The property exempted

23 may be increased or decreased
24 based upon review of the
25 application.

1 MR. JONES:

2 Ms. Simms, is it your
3 position that that means that we
4 could take into account whatever
5 we want to to provide a five or
6 ten year.

7 MS. SIMMS:

8 I believe that provision does
9 allow the Board some leeway.

10 MS. POTTS-ROQUE:

11 Usually the language that
12 allows the Board to have some
13 discretion on what they grant
14 will say the Board may grant a
15 special exception -- a special
16 exception may be granted by the
17 Board if they so see fit, so much
18 to say, but this does not say
19 that at all, to me, in order for
20 the Board to be able and I did --
21 you know, I didn't get back with
22 Ms. Simms on a previous request
23 because I wasn't sure that we
24 could really help her and I
25 wanted to make sure that before I

1 spoke forward and what we could
2 do to help her and not help her,
3 so it is my understanding that on
4 this instance, on this juncture
5 here with this program we cannot
6 grant a special exception to help
7 her and that's --

8 MS. GRECO:

9 I don't read subsection F as
10 having any bearing on the timing
11 the deadline for filing or
12 penalty for filing late. It's
13 dealing with eligibility of
14 business itself as a manufacturer
15 and eligibility of the property.

16 MR. FRUGE:

17 Mr. Chairman.

18 MR. MEHROTRA:

19 Yes. Mr. Fruge.

20 MR. FRUGE:

21 Based on that discussion, I
22 think on the advice of counsel,
23 that we would, as a Board, defer
24 this action until such time as it
25 was compelling evidence that we

1 did have the authority to act,
2 and it appears that we do not.

3 MR. MEHROTRA:

Commerce & Industry- 4-23-13.txt
Okay.

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MS. GRECO:

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Now, Mr. Fruge, you do have
authority to approve for a five
year period, the rule permits.

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MR. FRUGE:

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Yes. Right. I think the
issue, as I understand it, was to
go ten year, so the five year, I
mean, we could -- I guess we
could have a motion to approve
that because we never have done
that.

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MR. MEHROTRA:

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I have a motion on that. Any
further discussion from the
Board? Any further discussion
from the floor? We're still
discussing whether we have a
motion that is open on the
discussion, so I wanted to wrap
that up. Okay. Thank you, Ms.

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Simms.

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MS. SIMMS:

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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MR. JONES:

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Mr. Chairman, under the
circumstances, I would make a
motion that we approve the
application for a five year

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9 exemption.
10 MR. MEHROTRA:
11 Motion to approve by Ms.
12 Potts-Roque and second by --
13 second -- motion, sorry, motion
14 by Mr. Jones. Sorry, Jerry.
15 Jones. And second by Ms.
16 Potts-Roque. All in favor say
17 aye.
18 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:
19 Aye.
20 MR. MEHROTRA:
21 All opposed? There is no
22 opposition.
23 Mr. Grissom from LED. Do you
24 have any comments?
25 MR. GRISSOM:

1 Thank you. I would like to
2 share some of the recent news
3 from the department and also
4 apologize for not being able to
5 make our last Board meeting, but
6 great to see all of you this
7 month and I wanted to thank you
8 for your service on this Board.
9 We have been actively working
10 a wide variety of business
11 development project opportunities
12 and we've seen a number of those

Commerce & Industry- 4-23-13.txt
13 projects move to an announcement
14 phase. We've had several in the
15 petrochemical sectors. One with
16 the cornerstone chemical site in
17 Jefferson Parish, which is
18 potentially over a billion
19 dollars in investment and 65 new
20 direct jobs, and one with
21 Huntsman Corporation just down
22 the road in Geismar with a \$78
23 million expansion and potential
24 for 75 new direct jobs, so some
25 exciting work going on.

1 I did want to highlight one
2 specific project in the Baton
3 Rouge area, actually, downtown
4 Baton Rouge, which was somewhat
5 unique in the public private
6 partnership. This is with IBM.
7 They've announced the creation of
8 an 800 job technology center in
9 downtown Baton Rouge, and this
10 project represents Louisiana's
11 largest software development
12 project to date. That is a sector
13 that the department has been
14 activity cultivating for
15 sometime, and with state support,
16 LSU is planning to dramatically
17 expand the computer science

18 program in coordination with some
19 curriculum development in
20 coordination with IBM, and an
21 innovative private partnership is
22 resulting in a new riverfront
23 development with offices and
24 residential components and the
25 office components primarily

1 focused on IBM, so a very
2 exciting project opportunity with
3 a world class company and in a
4 sector that department has been
5 targeting for sometime, so we're
6 very excited to bring that
7 project to fruition and excited
8 about the potential here in Baton
9 Rouge and the State.

10 Also wanted to mention that
11 we continue to receive positive
12 recognition out of the State. FDI
13 Magazine, which covers investment
14 across the globe, recently
15 recognized both New Orleans and
16 Lafayette among top American
17 cities of the future. Their
18 assessment was based on a wide
19 variety of factors. With New
20 Orleans ranking 7th -- I'm sorry,
21 6th overall in the top ten

22 Commerce & Industry- 4-23-13.txt
23 mid-size American cities of the
24 future. Only one other American
25 city was in that list that the
remaining were in Canada, and

1 Lafayette ranked No. 7 overall in
2 one of the top small American
3 cities of the future, and, again,
4 the assessments were based on a
5 variety of factors including
6 economic factors but also based
7 on their assessments of those
8 regions business development
9 marketing efforts in the economic
10 development space, so, again,
11 we're excited about that
12 recognition. We continue to get
13 the message out that Louisiana is
14 moving in the right direction and
15 that we are actively cultivating
16 business and looking forward to
17 expansions and new investment
18 across the state.

19 So with that, I would like to
20 say thank you, once again, and be
21 happy to answer any questions
22 from the Board members.

23 MR. MEHROTRA:

24 Thank you, Mr. Grissom. I
25 would also like to thank the

1 staff for all of their hard work.
2 we appreciate all y'all's efforts.
3 Can I get a motion to adjourn.
4 Ms. Potts-Roque, and second by
5 Mr. Burgess. All in favor say
6 aye.

7 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

8 Aye.

9 MR. MEHROTRA:

10 All opposed? Thank you.

11 Thank you.

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13 (Whereupon the meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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4 I, RACHEL Y. TORRES, Certified
5 Court Reporter in and for the State of Louisiana,
6 as the officer before whom this testimony was
7 taken, do hereby certify that this meeting was
8 reported by me in the stenotype reporting method,
9 was prepared and transcribed by me or under my
10 personal direction and supervision, and is a true
11 and correct transcript to the best of my ability
12 and understanding;

13 That the transcript has been
14 prepared in compliance with transcript format
15 guidelines required by statute or by rules of the
16 board, that I have acted in compliance with the
17 prohibition on contractual relationships, as
18 defined by Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure
19 Article 1434 and in rules and advisory opinions
20 of the board;

21 That I am not related to counsel
22 or to the parties herein, nor am I otherwise
23 interested in the outcome of this matter.

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1 Dated this 8th day of May, 2013.

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RACHEL Y. TORRES, CCR, RPR
CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER

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